INTERVIEW OF JANIE FREEMAN BASS

INTERVIEWEE	Janie Bass
DATE	August 16th, 2018
INTERVIEWERS	Tealey Ellis and Judith Robertson
TRANSCRIBER	Brandon Widner
LOCATION	Home of Janie Bass

TEALEY ELLIS: My name is Tealey Ellis and I am a volunteer with the Fairview North Carolina Library Oral History Project. This interview information will be placed in the North Carolina Room of the Pack Library in Downtown Asheville, for all to hear and read. Today I am interviewing Ms. Janie Bass in her home in Fairview, North Carolina. To talk about her experiences of living in Fairview.

JUDITH ROBERTSON: This is Judith Robertson recording the oral history of Janie Bass at her home at 11 o'clock on August 16th, 2018, for the Fairview Oral History Project for the North Carolina Room at Pack Library in the North Carolina Library System. The conditions of use form for sound and video recordings has been signed by the interviewee.

TE: When we were talking earlier Ms. Bass, you said that you were born in Fairview, and that the house you born was still standing? Could you tell us about that house in that location?

JANIE BASS: Well the house is there besides the road. There's a little sign that, down on US-74 right there in Fairview that some… Foster Drive.

TE: I think I've seen that.

JB: Okay, that's the house right there where I was born and raised right there.

TE: What can you tell us about that house? Was it built by your family?

JB: Yes, it was. My grandparents came from Rutherford County, and when they came to Fairview, they lived in a little house on Graveyard Road. Right across from the cemetery. I think

there's a little business there now where that house was, but they lived there then until they built that house down there, yeah.

TE: Do you know who lives there now in that house by any chance?

JB: Pardon?

TE: Do you know who lives in that house?

JB: It's empty right now, it's for sale.

TE: Okay, for sale, okay. You mentioned your parents, what were their names? And you said they had come from Rutherford County, what were their names?

JB: That was my grandparents.

TE: Oh, I'm sorry.

JB: Yeah, my grandparents.

TE: Your parents' names then, what were the parents named?

JB: My mother's name was Ella Foster and my father's name was Porter Freeman. And he lived in a house right across the road from that house. But this one thing about when they came up from Rutherford County and lived there at the cemetery, my grandmother told me about this, that there's Indian graves at the end of the cemetery.

TE: Oh wow.

JB: Did you know that?

TE: No ma'am, I did not.

JB: Okay, well there were Indian graves down at the end of the old part of the cemetery. When we were children, we played a lot in the cemetery, you know when we were children we could go everywhere. Nobody worried about you being out for hours, running up and down the road or wherever you went. We played in the cemetery and picked up arrowheads up there lots of times. It's so sad to know that it's now all grown up in trees and nobody ever took care of it.

JR: Oh, it's all covered up? Oh…

TE: That is sad, that is sad.

JB: It is, it is sad.

TE: You mentioned your grandparents, that they had built that house where you were born. What were their names?

JB: His name was Dave Foster, her name was Callie.

TE: Do you know where they were born in Rutherford County?

JB: No, I don't.

TE: Okay, that's fine.

JB: I have it written down, but I don't remember right off hand.

TE: Not a problem, what kind of work did your parents do?

JB: Well, my father died when I was a baby. And my mother went to work at Enka.

JR: That was a long commute!

JB: Well, she lived out there and she only came home on the weekends. But there wasn't many jobs for women back in those days. I had uncles that were there, so she worked at Enka.

TE: And what did she do?

JB: I have no idea.

JR: It was a textile mill.

JB: They made Rayon.

TE: I'm not originally from the area, so I didn't know that it was a textile mill. That's why I was asking.

JB: It's been out of business for a number of years now, and there's other things there, but it's out on the other side of Asheville.

TE: You have lived all of your life in Fairview you've said.

JB: The biggest part of it.

TE: How many years have you lived here at this location?

JB: Let's see, I think it's 56. I believe 56 years. Gather lots of junk in those years.

TE: This is a very interesting stone rock house, it's beautiful. What do you know about it?

JB: It was built by Bob Orr. I could tell you a little about, and this I don't know for sure, but I was told he had had an accident with a motorcycle and lost one leg. And he worked for the railroad, and he got caught between railcars and cut off his good leg and his bad leg, his wooden leg, and he was in a wheelchair. I remembered him just being in a wheelchair and that was it. But the house was built back in the thirties. I assume he had money because back then people didn't have much money.

JR: But the railroad probably gave him compensation.

JB: That's what I assume. Garren Creek was a pretty good-sized stream back in those days. He dammed up the creek over there and he built that little house that's across the road over there. He had his own electricity. When Garren Creek was a dirt road, and nobody up here had electricity. So that was kind of interesting.

JR: He must have been pretty smart.

JB: Yes, he probably was. [laughing]

TE: So, he built this house?

JB: He had it built yes.

TE: Did he live here any?

JB: Yes, he lived here until he died.

TE: Oh, until he died, okay. When we drove in earlier, we were looking at your beautiful flowers and tomatoes and everything, and we saw what is a little spring house?

JB: That's our spring house. That's where my water comes from.

TE: Okay, alright.

JB: He grew lots of flowers, Mr. Orr did. He had beautiful flowers.

JR: My goodness.

JB: Everything seems to grow well up here.

TE: It certainly does. In the fifty-some odd years that you have lived here, have you made any changes or renovations to the home?

JB: Nothing except this porch.

TE: The porch? This was added?

JB: It had a little porch here, but other than that, it's just like it always was.

TE: By any chance do you have any photographs from earlier days or even current days of your house? It's so beautiful and unusual.

JB: Not any early ones, no.

TE: Do you have any that you've taken?

JB: I have pictures that other people have taken, but I really don't know where they are. I have had several people stop and take pictures.

JR: I can imagine.

TE: Well, if you should ever find them, and would like to get in touch with us, we would be more than happy to, if you would agree, to scan those pictures so that they can be shared with your history as well.

JB: Yeah.

TE: So, keep that in mind. What about pictures of early Fairview? School or anything of that nature.

JB: Not really. I have a picture of Fairview Inn, but I think you have numerous pictures of that, do you not?

TE: We had a sketch that someone drew, do you have a photograph?

JB: It's a picture, that was- I think there might have been an advertisement.

JR: That's what we have.

TE: We do have that one, yes.

JB: I thought you might have.

TE: What was the, when you were growing up in Fairview, going to school, what was the population like in terms of, were there any group of people that were not white?

JB: Yes, there was families that lived over on Brush Creek Road. Mandy and Bill Shorter, and Aunt Emma, what's her last name…

TE: Don't worry.

JB: Her last name don't come to me right at the moment. Edgerton! Emma Edgerton. I think some people may remember that her grandson used to put on a Confederate uniform and carry a Confederate flag and march up and down the interstate.

TE: Okay…

JR: Over Charlotte's Street? Did he go on that overpass over Charlotte Street?

JB: I don't know. Mostly on the interstate. Like 26 and 40. He was quite a figure back then. Course he's older now and I don't think his health is well and he's quit doing all of that. For years he did do that and, you see my Confederate flag hanging over there? *laughing*

We're true Southern people.

JR: I see your hummingbirds too, your hummingbirds are zooming around.

TE: Do you have, in talking about this house again, do you have special, super extra special memories maybe of this house? Or the house you were born or grew up in?

JB: Not this house particularly, because well, my children grew up here. They were, I think my oldest son was about 11 when we moved here. Other than just with them you know. And we of course had all kinds of animals and horses and cows and all of that stuff you have when you live in the country. *laughing*

TE: Right. What about the Fairview house that you lived in, memories there?

JB: One thing that I can remember particularly was, my grandmother was such a wonderful person. And this was back during the Depression and right after the Depression, and there were still people, men that would walk up and down the roads trying to find work, you know. A lot of times they would come to our house and want something to eat. She never turned

away anybody. She might not have had anything but cornbread and milk, but she had something to feed everybody. She was such a good person.

TE: How kind.

JB: She really was. And I can remember that, I can remember that sometimes when she would let them go to the barn and sleep in the hay if it was at night, you know. Mostly that's about all I can remember from back in those days. Just other than what children do.

TE: Speaking of what children do, and later as a teenage girl and young woman, what did you think were some of the best parts of living in Fairview?

JB: Well, when I was living, when I was growing up and a teenager in Fairview, Fairview was scum. I had relatives that lived in Asheville and they hated to come out here because that was just the worst place in the world to go to. It was not a great place then like it is now. *laughing*

JR: They just didn't have the eyes to see what was here.

JB: They didn't no, no. *laughing*

TE: That's interesting. Because people do want to get out here now, they can't get here fast enough.

JB: Absolutely.

JR: And the farms must have been beautiful back then.

JB: It was, yes it really was. It was really a pretty place.

TE: What did you do as a young child and later as a teenager for fun and activities?

JB: We entertained ourselves. Mostly we got away from the house, because if you stayed around the house you had to go to work. I had relatives that lived close, and there were several of us children. We just went everywhere. *laughing*

Like playing in the cemetery, you know we played in the cemetery and…

JR: Did you have a swimming hole in the creek?

JB: We had a little creek run in front of our house, but it was kind of nasty even back in those days. This one over here is now. *laughing*

TE: What were your neighbors like in Fairview?

JB: Well, my neighbors were relatives.

TE: Okay.

JB: The closest ones were relatives. The little store, there was a little store next door to our house.

TE: What was it called?

JB: Um, well, I had a friend. She told about coming up Garren Creek, they lived in New Orleans. They had a cabin up here on the mountain, further on over. They would come up here in the summertime and she said this road was so terrible that sometimes they'd come to big rocks in the road and they'd all have to get out of the car to push the car over the rocks to get up the road.

But they finally moved to Fairview and he built this little store next door to our house. It was Edmond Wood. You know about them?

JR: We want to hear!

TE: Yes, tell us.

JB: You want to hear. Well, he built a house across over the hill on the other side, but he had that little store there. He ran the store and she had a little restaurant. And coming from New Orleans, she was a wonderful cook. He retired, his son ran the store for a while, and then somebody else ran the store for a while. And then finally it ended up with being nothing but people selling beer. Then after that closed, there was a little lady that opened a little craft store there. I sold her lots of Christmas ornaments. It didn't go over well, and she closed it up. I don't know, the store's still there but I don't think there's anything in it anymore.

TE: By any chance, that building that you're talking about was the store, is that what is now a white building with flowers painted on the side?

JB: Yes.

TE: Okay, the reason I am asking you that particular question, if I can divert for just a moment, right across from that building that you're talking about, is a road. It's called Edmond Woods Place, and I live up there.

JB: You do?

TE: Yes ma'am. So, this is interesting to learn this history about that building. And you thought you didn't have anything to share! This is wonderful.

JR: I know, I'm just soaking it up.

JB: Yes, 'cause I knew all of them and his children and grandchildren. One of his great grandchildren was one of my good friends. He was such a sweet person.

TE: I would assume then that Mr. Wood owned that land.

JB: Yes, well his granddaughter lives there now. Dixie. You know Dixie?

TE: Dixie actually sold the last eight acres that she owned, a year ago and moved back to Maryland.

JB: She's gone back to Maryland? I didn't know that.

TE: Yes ma'am. I have her phone number if you ever, I'm sure she wouldn't mind me sharing it with you if you would like to ever talk to her. I'll tell her that, I'll let her know that I've talked with you.

JB: Well, I surely didn't know that. She kept saying, you know, she'd been here several times over the years and that's too bad.

TE: Well, her husband was not well.

JB: I knew he had cancer, did he not? Yeah, yeah.

TE: Right, so they needed to move for that reason. But I'll be in touch with her. Thank you for sharing that information, that was really amazing.

JB: Do you live in that house? The first?

TE: I live in the first house as you're going up the road. It's the newest house up there.

JB: Yeah, okay. We drove up there, my daughter and I drove up there not very long ago. We were trying to find her. But I didn't know exactly where she lived.

TE: She lived on around from me in the back more. But that was my house you passed, that first one. Alright. I feel like we're old neighbors and good friends now. *All laughing*

JR: Small world.

TE: Small world. Well talking about how life is a circle and you know, one thing connects to another, what is your opinion of the sense of community in Fairview? As to, do people help each other in times of need?

JB: Well, they did then, yes very much so. There was a lady that lived up on Church Road. My grandmother was sick a lot back in those days when I was a child. This lady would come to our house. She'd come in the morning and she'd stay all day. She would cook and she would clean, or she would wash clothes, or whatever needed to be done she came and stayed all day. We don't have neighbors like that anymore.

JR: So, she wasn't a paid employee, she just came out of the goodness of her heart?

JB: She was just a friend.

JR: Oh, my goodness, that is extraordinary.

TE: That is nice, that is wonderful. You mentioning changes in terms of sense of community and it's not today like it was several years back. What are other changes that you have seen in Fairview.

JB: Population is the biggest thing. Because back when I was growing up, there were very few people that lived in Fairview. Nothing like it is anymore, you know.

TE: When you were younger, and to your memory, what was the situation in Fairview like as far as any crimes being committed?

JB: Not any. We just didn't have any. Or at least anything that I knew about, you know, anything that affected me in any way. It was just like I said before, you were free to go and play and do whatever you wanted to, and nobody worried about you. It's not like that anymore.

JR: You didn't lock your doors?

JB: No. *laughing*

TE: Who were some memorable people? I think you've mentioned a couple already, but people that we might refer to as characters. Who had interesting stories to tell, and who knew the history? Do you recall any people like that? That were very interesting sit down to and listen to?

JB: Not really, no.

TE: Okay, so no storytellers that…?

JB: Well, the only one that I remember particularly was Reverend Wayne Sinclair lived across the road in that old house across the road from us. That was back in the early forties? He was such a good person. He and his wife, she was wonderful, she was just so good to me.

He was pastor of Fairview Baptist Church for a while. And then he founded Cane Creek Baptist Church. He was there for a while and then moved to Hendersonville. He was an interesting person and he did lots of things. He even founded the school in one place. He went with a missionary to the Cherokee Indians at one time. So, they were the most interesting people that I knew of. I just loved them to death. *laughing*

TE: Yeah, very interesting person. What kind of celebrations do you recall the town having?

JB: Oh, Fourth of July! To go to the recreation park, to the Farmer's Federation Picnic.

TE: That was a big deal.

All laughing

JB: We had watermelon, lemonade, and ice cream, and…

TE: Some good stuff.

JB: Oh, that was the big thing, yes indeed.

TE: What about churches? Did they have big homecoming celebrations, or?

JB: Well, the churches didn't, but the family had home... reunions. I would go with my grandmother sometimes to the family reunions. Most of those were like over in Edneyville. That's where she was from.

TE: Back in the day, how did you get news about things that were happening and going on?

JB: We had a radio. We didn't have a TV, but we had a big old radio. Because I remember when the war started, when they bombed Pearl Harbor, and here we all gathered around the radio to listen, that was the big thing.

TE: Did you also recall listening to any programs that were kind of… cause I trying to remember back from things I was told from my childhood, people would listen to comedy things or scary radio shows?

JB: We listened to soap operas.

TE: Okay, you remember the name of some of them?

JB: One of them was "My Gal Sunday."

TE: Oh wow, I never heard that one.

JB: And there was another, but I can't remember it. If I could remember that one… I had cousins, a girl that was about my age that lived with us. Their mother and father both had died. My grandmother took in four grandchildren. She had always listened to the soap operas in the afternoon you know.

TE: Why not?

JR: It's a lovely thing to do.

TE: When you were growing up in Fairview, were there any volunteer groups or organizations that did help people out?

JB: Not that I know of. Just neighbors and friends back in those days that did that.

TE: What about your Fairview High School days? Tell us about that.

JB: They were just, it was just high school. Basically, that was about it. You know it wasn't really anything I guess special by any means. It was the last year that they had ten grades. The next year after I graduated, they had eleven.

TE: What about sports, were there sports teams?

JB: Oh yeah, I have a picture of a baseball team in Fairview. Guess that was back probably in the forties. Would you be interested in that?

TE: Yes ma'am. Yes, we would. If you know where it is when we finish the interview, we might have to… do you have the scanner with you?

JR: I do, depends on how big it is though.

TE: Right, depending on the size Judith--

JB: It's just a little small picture, it's because my husband played baseball. He's in that picture.

TE: We'll see if we can scan it then after we finish with the interview. What about church activities? Did you and your family attend a lot of those?

JB: Oh yes, I went to Fairview Baptist Church, for years and years. Well see, it was close enough that we could walk. I guess I've been a member of Fairview Baptist Church all my life. I don't attend there now, I attend a church right down, Pleasant Grove down the road. Because it's close. And besides, I like the pastor better. *laughing*

TE: What kind of activities did the church offer to young people?

JB: Really, they didn't really. We had bible school in the summertime and Sunday school. Other than that, that was about it back in those days.

TE: Were there any other churches of different faiths other than Christianity?

JB: Except for the blacks families, they had a little church.

TE: Okay and where was that?

JB: It was on Brush Creek Road. I think it's Brush Creek Church there now, they've torn it down years ago and built a new church. But they went to church there and they had school there. I don't know if I should tell all the funny things that happened in Fairview or not, but I know my uncles weren't angels by any means. My uncles and some other boys had some white pigeons from somewhere, and they were having church. The windows are open in the church, and they took these pigeons to the church and turned them loose and he said, "You've never heard such shouting and praising the lord in all your life, they thought the holy ghost had descended on them." That wasn't the only mean thing they did either. *laughing*

TE: Well, sometimes in our youth we do things that we don't always think carefully about, I guess. Where did you go for shopping, if you wanted to buy clothes?

JB: We went to Asheville.

TE: What stores were there?

JB: We had Belk's, and Bon Marché, and Woolworth's, and Newberry's, and Kress's. You go to town on Saturday, you caught the Trailway bus. Go and stay all day.

TE: You caught the bus here in Fairview?

JB: See, at that time, 74/Charlotte Highway was the only road to Charlotte, and so we had Trailway buses that went several times back and forth. You rode the bus. You caught the bus down at Guy Merrell's store.

JR: Did you dress us to go to town?

JB: Well of course you did! *laughing*

TE: Did you wear gloves? Or a hat?

JB: Not to church, or not to town, but you did to church. You always wore hats to church back in those days.

TE: When you went into Asheville on Saturdays to shop, was there any place you went for a special treat? I don't know, ice cream, or something special?

JB: Oh yes, Bluebird Ice Cream Shop on Pack Square. You could buy a cone of ice cream for five cents.

TE: Oh wow.

JB: And you could get Tutti Fruity ice cream which I was thought was the best stuff in the whole wide world. Except when my uncle came on Sunday afternoons and brought a block of ice from the icehouse and we made homemade ice cream. *laughing*

TE: Well, what about Fairview businesses? What other businesses do you remember?

JB: There was several little stores in Fairview. There was the Merrell's store. At one time there was a big two-story building between US-74 and Village Road, where you come off Village Road, there was a store right in there. And, talking about the boys, there was three big pine trees over on the hill on the other side. So, he named the store "The Three Pines." And somebody blew up two of the pines, so then he just renamed the store, "The Lone Pine." So that worked out alright.

TE: I like that.

JB: But the store was torn down years ago. There was a car wash there at one time. There's nothing there now is there?

Then there was a little store, that store at the corner of Brush Creek Road, the building is still there. There was a store there. Mrs. Poor ran that store there. I guess she sold other things besides groceries because I can remember my grandmother giving me a nickel and telling me to go up there to get a hank of thread, of quilting thread. It came in a hank, and then I would have to sit and hold this on my finger while she wound it into a ball.

JR: How would you get there?

JB: Walk! It was just a little ways up above where I lived. From our house on Brush Creek.

JR: Oh yes, yes, I see.

JB: I don't know if there was another store, I guess that was all the stores at that time.

TE: Is that store that you're referring to where you got the hank of thread, is that where Dalton's store is?

JB: It's across the street from that, where I think it's a residence now, I think they remodeled that. I know people lived there for a number of years and I think somebody still lives there.

TE: What about barbershops or hair salons if you wanted… none of those?

JB: Not in Fairview. That I know of.

TE: Okay, what about restaurants? Was there any place to go get a bite to eat other than at home?

JB: Down at the Merrell's store, he had a little restaurant there, you could get things there sometimes, hotdogs or hamburgers. At the foot of the mountain before you go up by Mine Hole Gap, there's a building there. There's a little restaurant there now, a coffee shop there now. There was a little restaurant there that had wonderful hamburgers. *laughing*

But you had to, you didn't get to go there until you were a teenager and had a boyfriend that had a car.

JR: Was it in the old log cabin?

JB: Yeah!

TE: Interesting. You mentioned Mine Hole Gap, and US-74, what are your memories and thoughts about when that road was expanded to four lanes?

JB: It was, people were highly upset. Some people were because they wanted to, you know, widen that road and they didn't want all this done. But it was a wonderful thing. The reason it's Mine Hole Gap is because at one time there was a gold mine there. But that was way before my time, but so I had been told that that's where it got its name.

TE: Okay, very interesting. What about, you said you had gone to Fairview High School, so you would've also, I assume, gone to Fairview Elementary School.

JB: It was just one school. There was only one school.

TE: It was only one school, so it housed all the children? Okay, alright. What about then, when you were in the elementary grades, do you have some memories of what it was like then?

JB: One thing I remember, was that there was a little school over here, on beyond us, Nesbitt School. When I was in the fifth grade, all of the children from Nesbitt School came to Fairview School. I know a lot of people can tell you about things from over here that I don't really know about, but I do know that they came to Fairview when I was in the fifth grade. That enlarged our school a right good little bit. And they weren't very happy about having to come join us, but from the best I can remember they weren't happy with it at all. *laughing*

JR: Were there school buses?

TE: School buses, yeah, were there school buses?

JB: Yes, you had to walk if you lived within a mile. If you lived within less than a mile of school, you had to walk to school. No matter what the weather was, and the buses go by, you still had to walk to school. We lived just a fraction over a mile from school, so I got to ride the school bus.

TE: Good for you! Happy for you. In all the years you've lived in Fairview, do you recall any tragedies like fires or floods, accidents?

JB: My in-laws lived… you know about Ashworth Dairy?

TE: No ma'am.

JR: No, tell us.

JB: As you come up US-74, at Camby Drive, there's a big silo there. You know where that is. Okay, Ashworth Dairy was there. The big yellow house was where the Ashworth's lived.

JR: Really?

JB: The house right before that, there's a couple of new houses in there now, but my in-laws lived in a little house there at one time when my husband was a baby. They had an older child, I think he must have been about, I don't know it seems like he must have been two or three, four, I don't remember his age. But anyway, he was bit by a dog that rabies. And you know back then there was no treatment for it like there is now, so of course he did die. That was one thing, of course I don't remember when it happened, but of course I remember hearing a lot about it since then.

TE: Speaking of that then, in a situation where someone would've needed a doctor to try and do something, were there doctors in Fairview?

JB: We had Doctor McCracken; you know about Doctor McCracken? Surely somebody's--

JR: We've heard the name, but we don't know much. Tell us.

JB: He lived there right across from the school. That big old house where the two little donkeys are beside the Food Lion.

TE: Yes, yes.

JB: And there's a little house in the back that was his office there. He was our doctor. He came and if you needed him somebody went to get him. He would come. No matter what, as I can remember, that no matter what was wrong with you, he had a little package of pink powder folded up in little papers and that's what he doctored everybody with. But he was a good person, he really was a good person.

TE: Do you have any idea of what he charged when he came to your home?

JB: No idea. I can remember him coming when I had chicken pox and they thought I was going to die, but I didn't. *laughing*

TE: You survived that, didn't you?

JB: But in talking about Ashworth's and there, as you come up Hollywood Road, there's a marker right there on US-74, for the Ashworths there. As you come up Hollywood Road, a little ways over on the left before you start up that little curve kind of up the hill a little bit where the Fradys live there. Some of the Ashworth graves are over there in the woods. That's another place that was just, you know, was just neglected and grown up in trees. That's just kind of sad that people don't care anything about it anymore. But, you know, Hollywood was going to be a big town at one time. You didn't know about that?

TE: Oh, no ma'am.

JB: Hollywood was going to be a big city. This was back before the Depression. And they built several huge houses in Hollywood. During the Depression, of course, everybody lost their money and a lot of the houses burned down, and when I could remember there was only one house and they were using it for a barn. We played in the hay in that house in the barn.

As you go up Hollywood Road in front of where the Fradys live there, there's one chimney left standing from one of the houses. A little further on out the road there's a rock wall and some steps that was in front of one of the houses. There's a house built there now. But yes, Hollywood was supposed to be a big city until the Depression came along.

JR: Why did the houses burn?

JB: I guess they were burnt for their insurance is what, at least that's what's told. I don't know. What I do know is that I was told that several of the houses had burned down, and that they were all gone but that one that's the only one I could ever remember.

TE: What are your memories, you mentioned Pearl Harbor earlier, and hearing that on the radio; what about the Civil Rights movement that started in the Sixties? Was there much going on here in Fairview?

JB: Not here in Fairview. We only had those few families that lived over there. And they were friends. Aunt Lou Emma, she came to work at my house a lot. My Grandmother was sick a lot and she would come and wash or do whatever needed to be done. Of course, they paid her, and she was such a sweet woman. Came to visit my aunt even after everybody else had died and gone, she was just a sweet person. But other than that, that's all I know about. There was no problems, that I know of.

TE: Right, okay. What else that I haven't, that we haven't covered today in terms of questions and things going on in Fairview and life? Is there anything that we've forgotten to mention that you would like to share some memories of that we just haven't touched upon? Maybe something that made Fairview special to you?

JB: Not anything that I can think of, we were just children growing up and just had a good time. That was about it. *Laughing*

TE: Well, I understand, I understand. What about you Judith? You have any questions that we didn't touch on?

JR: We didn't talk about work very much, but you said you didn't enjoy your job very much.

JB: Well, I didn't want to work, because I had babies and I wanted to stay at home. It was less the work itself; it was the fact that I had to. Well, my husband worked, and he worked hard, but he didn't make a lot of money. I didn't want my children growing up in a low rent housing development with drug dealers on each corner, so I went to work so we could get them out here in the country to grow up. Where they could have horses, chickens, and cows and all that kind of stuff. *laughing*

JR: Tell us again where you worked?

JB: It was CP Clare. When they first, they came down from Chicago, and they opened up their business in what was then the gymnasium at the back of Fairview School. They started there then until they built that building across over there on the other side of the road. It's Tyco now.

JR: What did you do there?

JB: We made little electronical things. Only they were larger those back in those days. They were big, some of them were really big. But that's one reason I have arthritis in my fingers is all the work that I did over the years and another reason I don't hear well.

JR: Was it loud?

JB: It was pretty noisy, yes.

TE: How old were your children when you started working there?

JB: My daughter was just a baby. She wasn't a year old.

TE: Who took care of her?

JB: My aunt and my grandmother. I had wonderful babysitters. They had grandmothers and, well they had three grandmothers, and my little old lady aunt. She was an old maid schoolteacher aunt. She was the one that insisted I go to school, or go to work, and that she would look after the children, you know. That worked out well for me.

JR: And it was the right decision because it gave you a better life.

JB: Well, yes, I think so.

JR: But you missed your kids.

TE: Well, it gave you peace of mind to be able to go do that work.

JB: I knew they were taken good care of, yeah. It's not like you'd have to now where people put them in nurseries and sometimes nurseries are pretty bad places. My grandson was in the nursery and I went one time to see him, and I'll tell you that I only went that once. I found a babysitter right away. Didn't go back there anymore, it was terrible.

TE: I like your spunk. I do.

JR: I do too.

TE: And I admire you as well. Absolutely. Thank you so much Ms. Bass for allowing us to sit here on your porch and among your beautiful flowers and talk to you today. I've enjoyed it very much.

JB: I've enjoyed you coming.

TE: Thank you.

JB: Shall I get the, would you like to see the pictures?

TE: Yes ma'am.

JB: Let me go see what I can find.

TE: Is there any way I can help you?

[END OF INTERVIEW]